

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 8 have been amended to more particularly define the invention and clearly distinguish over the prior art of record, and conforming amendments have been made to claims 2, 7 and 11. Withdrawn claims 14-16 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-13 are currently pending in this application, of which claims 1 and 8 are independent. Applicant respectfully submits that the above amendments do not add new matter to the application and are fully supported by the specification.

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because it (a) places the application in *prima facie* condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise new issues requiring further search and/or consideration by the Examiner because similar subject matter was previously considered by the Examiner and thus further consideration and/or search by the Examiner is not warranted; and (c) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. For at least these reasons, entry of the present Amendment and Remarks is therefore respectfully requested. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 6-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,583,560 to Amemiya ("Amemiya"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

In order for a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) to be proper, a single reference must disclose every claimed feature. To be patentable, a claim need only recite a single novel

feature that is not disclosed in the cited reference. Thus, the failure of a cited reference to disclose one or more claimed features renders the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection improper.

Claims 1 and 8, as amended, recite, *inter alia*:

wherein at least one of the first barrier rib members and the second barrier rib members are entirely light-absorbing

Amemiya does not teach or suggest such features. As page 5 of the Office Action notes, Amemiya teaches barrier ribs that absorb and reflect light.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of claims 1 and 8. Claims 6-7 and claims 9-11 depend from allowable claims 1 and 8, respectively, and are allowable at least for this reason. Since none of the other prior art of record, whether taken alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the claimed subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 8, as well as all claims that depend therefrom, are allowable.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amemiya in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,888,310 to Tadaki, *et al.* ("Tadaki"). Claim 2 depends from claim 1, as amended, and is allowable at least for this reason since Tadaki fails to cure the deficiencies of Amemiya.

Claims 3-5 and 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Amemiya in view of JP 2001-118512 of Nishimura, *et al.* ("Nishimura"). Claims 3-5 and 12-13 depend from amended claims 1 and 10, respectively, and are allowable at least for this reason since Nishimura fails to cure the deficiencies of Amemiya.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 2, 3-5 and 12-13. Since none of the other prior art of record, whether taken

alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the claimed subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 8, as well as all claims that depend therefrom, are allowable.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action and respectfully submits that all of the stated objections and grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 14, 2006

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